

Serial No. 10/731,949
60130-1980; 00MRA0443

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A deformation element for use in motor vehicles comprising:

a first base part having at least one tapered protrusion extending from said first base part;
and

a second base part comprised of a foamed plastics material and having at least one recess corresponding with said at least one tapered protrusion, wherein said at least one recess tapers from a front side to a rear side thereof

wherein said at least one tapered protrusion penetrates into said at least one recess against an increasing deformation force applied by said at least one recess to deform said at least one tapered protrusion.

2. (Currently Amended) The deformation element according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one tapered protrusion has the shape of a truncated cone.

3. (Currently Amended) The deformation element according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one tapered protrusion has the shape of a truncated pyramid.

4. (Currently Amended) The deformation element according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one recess has the shape of a truncated cone.

5. (Currently Amended) The deformation element according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one recess has the shape of a truncated pyramid.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The deformation element according to Claim 1, A~~
deformation element for use in motor vehicles comprising:

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a first base part having at least one tapered protrusion extending from said first base part;
and
a second base part having at least one recess corresponding with said at least one tapered protrusion, wherein said at least one recess tapers from a front side to a rear side thereof,
wherein said at least one tapered protrusion penetrates into said at least one recess against an increasing deformation force applied by said at least one recess to deform said at least one tapered protrusion, and wherein an angle between a side surface of said at least one tapered protrusion and a middle axis of said at least one tapered protrusion is substantially the same as an angle between a side surface of said at least one recess and a middle axis of said at least one recess.

7. (Currently Amended) The deformation element according to Claim 1, wherein an angle between a side surface of said at least one tapered protrusion and a middle axis of said at least one tapered protrusion is larger than an angle between a side surface of said at least one recess and a middle angle of said at least one recess.

8. (Currently Amended) The deformation element according to Claim 1, wherein an angle between a side surface of said at least one tapered protrusion and a middle axis of said at least one tapered protrusion varies to form an irregular shape.

9. (Currently Amended) The deformation element according to Claim 1, wherein an angle between a side surface of said at least one recess and a middle axis of said at least one recess varies to form an irregular shape.

10. (Currently Amended) The deformation element according to Claim 1, wherein a cross-section of a front face of said at least one tapered protrusion is smaller than a cross-section of a front surface area of said at least one recess.

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11. (Currently Amended) The deformation element according to Claim 1, wherein a cross-section of a foot surface area of said at least one tapered protrusion is larger than a cross-section of a front surface area of said at least one recess.

12. (Currently Amended) The deformation element according to claim 1, wherein said first and second base parts are each configured like a plate, wherein ~~the first base part~~ said at least one tapered protrusion comprises a plurality of protrusions and wherein ~~the second base part~~ said at least one recess comprises a plurality of recesses corresponding to said plurality of protrusions.

13. (Currently Amended) The deformation element according to Claim 1, wherein said second base part is made of a material that is softer than a material of said at least one tapered protrusion.

14. (Currently Amended) The deformation element according to Claim 13, wherein ~~at least one of said first~~ base parts is made of a foamed plastics material.

15. (Currently Amended) The deformation element according to Claim 1, wherein one of said first and second base parts is adapted to be attached to a car body outer part.

16. (Currently Amended) The deformation element according to Claim 1, wherein one of said first and second base parts is adapted to be attached to a lining piece for a vehicle interior space.

17. (New) A deformation element for use in motor vehicles comprising:
a first base part having a plurality of tapered protrusions, said first base part being formed from a first material; and

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a second base part having a plurality of tapered recesses aligned with said plurality of tapered protrusions, said second base part being formed from a second material that is softer than said first material, and wherein each one of said first and second base parts moves toward the other of said first and second base parts such that said plurality of tapered protrusions penetrates into said plurality of tapered recesses to control energy conversion by deforming said plurality of tapered protrusions within said plurality of tapered recesses.

18. (New) The deformation element according to Claim 17 wherein said first material comprises a first foamed plastics material and said second material comprises a second foamed plastics material that is softer than said first foamed plastics material.

19. (New) The deformation element according to claim 18 wherein each of said plurality of tapered protrusions includes a generally solid protrusion body that is received within a corresponding tapered recess and wherein each one of said first and second base parts moves towards the other of said first and second based parts during deformation such that said generally solid protrusion body is deformed against a wall defining said corresponding tapered recess.

20. (New) The deformation element according to claim 17 wherein said first base part comprises a solid base plate with said plurality of tapered protrusions extending outwardly from said solid base plate and wherein said second base part comprises a solid plate body with said plurality of tapered recesses extending into said solid plate body.